

SESSION SIX, 20 OCTOBER 2009

The Grind, May 1943-June 1944:**Nazi Germans and Occupied Europe, 1940-44.** Heinrich Himmler

The New Order; **Lebensraum**; Nazi Racial Doctrine: (1) Aryan Nordic – German, Scandinavian, Dutch, Flemish, English, Anglo-Americans; (2) other West Europeans - French, Celtic; Baltic; Italian, Spanish; East European – Czech, Croatian, Hungarian, Bulgarian, Rumanian, Greek, excluding Poles and Russians ('Asiatic'). (3) Beyond "European," Japanese good, but not other Asians; Middle East and North Africa, but not sub-Saharan. Excluded, Jews (International Jewish financiers, Jewish Bolshevism) and, less so, Gypsies. Also "degenerates." Euthanasia. **Nazi Racial Laws 1935**

Hossbach Memorandum, November 1937 (Col. Friedrich Hossbach): Raw Materials and Autarchy; German domination of East Europe and Russia, war by 1943 at latest; hostility of Britain and France, their African and Asian empires; U.S.A., Western Hemisphere.

Czechoslovakia (1938): Reich Protector Reinhard Heydrich (assassinated 27 May 1942); Karl Hermann Frank; Kurt Delaue; **Lidice**, June 1942.

Poland (1939-1945): Elimination of Polish leaders; Jews into ghettos. Sicherheitdienst (SD); Einsatzgruppen and widespread murders. Polish Underground Army, government(s) in exile.

Death Camps and the **Holocaust**: Wannsee Conference and Final Solution (Endlösung), Jan. 1942: Auschwitz-Birkenau, 1942, Treblinka. German Concentration Camps: Dachau, Bergen-Belsen, Buchenwald
Jewish Deaths: Poland 3,300,000; Ukraine-Belarus SSR 1,145,000; Hungary 450,000; Rumania 300,000; Baltic States 228,000; Germany-Austria 210,000; Czechoslovakia 155,000; Russian SSR 107,000; Netherlands 105,000; France 90,000; Greece 54,000; Yugoslavia, 26,000; Belgium 14,000; Italy 8,000; Luxembourg 1000; Norway, 390; Denmark 52; Finland 22; total 5,933,000 of pre-war 8,861,000 population.

Warsaw Ghetto (from 380,000, July 1942, to 14,000), rising May 1943

Occupied France, Belgium (1940-44), Netherlands (1940-45), Denmark, Norway (1940-45); Collaborators and Quislings. French Underground; Maquis

British SOE (Special Operations Executive), U.S. OSS (Office of Strategic Services; Col. William J. "Wild Bill" Donovan, eventually MGen.)

Yugoslavia (1941-44): Chetniks & Tito's Partisans); Greece (1941-44)

Baltic States Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia (1941-44)

Occupied USSR, including Belarus, Ukraine and western Russian Federation (1941-44)

2. The Soviet-German Front 1943: 2000 miles from White Sea (Finnish) to Black Sea.

Stalingrad and Winter Offensive; Rostov on Don re-taken February 1943; German 3.07million; Soviets, 6.6 million; Evacuation of Caucasus

Battle of **Kursk Salient** (Operation Citadel: Walther Model, Manstein, Kluge, 700,000 troops, 2400 tanks, assault guns, 1800 aircraft vs. Marshals Zhukov, Aleksandr Vasilevsky, Konstantin Rokossovsky, 1,300,000 troops, 3400 tanks, assault guns, 2100 aircraft) 5 July German attacks from North, Orel; south, Kharkov; 8 July, advances checked; 12 July Soviet counterattack; effect of Sicily Invasion; end August, Soviets take Kharkov, Orel.

Kiev, Nov. 1943; Leningrad relieved, Jan. 1944. Crimea, Ukraine, April 1944; Polish frontier, July.

The Allied Strategic Aerial Bombardment of Germany 1942-44

British RAF Bomber Command. Sir Arthur Harris from Feb. 1942 (Hamburg, Aug. 1943)

Eighth U.S. Air Force: Feb. 1942; BGen. Ira Eaker; later MGen Carl Spaatz; Aug. 1942, 18 B-17s, Rouen rail yards; Jan. 1943, 53 B-17s Wilhelmshaven naval base; Schweinfurt/Regensburg raids, 17 Aug. 1943. 143 B-17s (24 lost) & 230 B-17s (36 lost). "Black Thursday" 13 Oct. 1943, Schweinfurt; 291 B-17s (60 lost, 5 abandoned, 17 beyond repair)

U.S. Home Front. Rationing; Collections and Donations; USO.

Battle of the Atlantic: The Turning Point January-June 1943: ADM Roy Ingersoll; Increased air patrols.

Grand ADM Karl Dönitz, January 1943: 212 operational U-Boats (of 393)

March (storms subsided): eastbound convoys 5C-122 (52 ships, slow), HX-229 (25 ships, fast) vs 39 U-boats. 21 ships (140,000 tons) lost, 3 U-boats lost

ONS-5 slow westbound 28 April-6 May: 43 merchant ships, 3 DD, 4 corvettes escort vs 47 U-boats; 5 more DDs join: 13 merchant ships lost, 6 U-boats sunk, 2 damaged.

Overall 37 U-boats lost in May 1943, most to air attack.

June-August 1943: 58 merchant ships lost; 79 U-boats lost (58 to aircraft)

Sept.-October 1943: 9 of 2468 merchant ships lost, to 25 U-boats. (8 Oct., air bases in Azores)

January-March 1944, 105 convoys, 3360 merchantmen, 3 lost; 36 U-boats lost. Innovation attempts by Dönitz: snorkel, mid-1944

German Surface forces: BB *Tirpitz* damaged (Trondheim; sunk 1944); CB *Gneisenau* (Gdynia, dismantled); CB *Scharnhorst*, sunk 26 Dec. '43, **North Cape**, by BB HMS *Duke of York* and escorts.

Third Washington Conference (TRIDENT): FDR - Churchill, 12-27 May 1943

Invasion of Sicily. Anglo-American debates: "Roundup" (France, "later Overlord") vs. Husky" (Sicily): available resources, landing craft, pros and cons. Air Superiority (Air Marshal Tedder); Intelligence game: Sardinia

Allies: Mediterranean Theater: Gen. Eisenhower; 15th Army Group, Gen. Harold Alexander; U.S. 7th Army (LtGen Patton; II Corps, LtGen Omar Bradley, 3 divisions; Provisional Corps, MajGen. Geoffrey Keyes); British 8th Army (Gen.

Montgomery, 6 divisions, 4 brigades - 1 div. and one brigade Canadian. Naval Forces, ADM A. B. Cunningham, RN; Western VADM H.K. Hewitt, USN; U.S. Naval Gunfire support Licata: CLs *Brooklyn, Birmingham*, 10 DDs; Gela, CLs *Boise, Savannah, Philadelphia*, 10 DDs.; Eastern VADM B.L. Ramsay, RN. Royal Navy Covering Force: BBs *Nelson, Rodney, Warspite, Valiant, Howe, King George V*; CVs *Indomitable, Formidable*, 6 CLs, 24 DDs. New LSTs, LSTs, DUKWs,

Axis: HQ Rome; German Southern Command, FM Albert Kesselring; Sicily, Gen. Alfredo Guzzoni; Italian 4 Divs., 6 Coast Defense Divs.; German 15th Panzer Grenadier Div., Hermann Göring Div.; Italian Navy operational: 2 old BBs, 1 CL, 2 DDs at Taranto; 2 new BBs, 5 CLs, 8 DDs. at La Spezia.

10 July U.S. Landings Gulf of Gela: Licata (3rd Div. MGen. Lucian Truscott); Gela (1st Div., MGen. Terry Allen, BGen Theodore Roosevelt, Jr.); Paratroops, 82nd Airborne (MGen Matthew Ridgeway: 505th Reg., Col. James Gavin); British 8th Army Landings Cape Pessaro to Siracusa.

11 July: Naval gunfire vs. 56 ton Tiger tanks. Kesselring sends 2 more German divs.

12 July 150,000 allied troops ashore; by end, 225,000 US., 250,000 UK.

22 July: Patton in Palermo. Montgomery stuck Mt. Aetna area.

26 July: Victor Emanuel III dismisses Mussolini; detained; Marshal Badoglio head of government

Kesselring phased withdrawal to Calabria; Patton advances along north coast.

17 Aug. Patton in Messina (slapping incidents, 3 and 10 August)

Operation Avalanche: Invasion of Italy

3 Sep. 1943: British 8th Army Reggio di Calabria (BAYTOWN)

8 Sep. Italy's armistice (signed 3 Sept.) announced, 18:30 (Secret Gen. Ridgeway mission to Rome)

9 Sep. Gulf of Salerno (AVALANCHE): US 5th Army (LGen. Mark Clark); British X Corps. Naval support as in Sicily; 36th Division (Texas National Guard, MGen. Fred Walker)

12-16 Sep. German counterattacks (Col.Gen. Heinrich von Vietinghoff, X Army, 5 divs.) British 8th Army slow advance. FM Albert Kesselring Army Group C, some 15-17 divs.); 12 Sep. Mussolini freed (Col. Otto Skorzeny).

16 Sep. German withdrawal to Volturno River; Naples savaged, liberated 27 Sep.-1 Oct.

NOTE: Treatment of surrendered Italian Army troops by Germans (Kephallonia massacre).

Italian Campaign, October 1943-May 1944

East Coast: 8th Army to Termoli; air fields at Foggia. US Air Raids Ploesti Oil Refineries

5th Army: VI Corps (MGen. John Lucas) US 1st Armored, 3rd, 34th, 36th, 45th, UK 1st, 5th divs. US/Canadian Special Service Force (SSF); II Corps (LGen. Geoffrey Keyes) US 85th, 88th divs; French Expeditionary Corps (FEC, Gen. Alphonse Juin).

West Coast: Bernhardt Line, Volturno, to Gustav Line (Garigliano & Rapido Rivers); San Pietro; **Monte Casino**.

Anzio Landing (Operation SHINGLE), 22 January 1944, VI Corps (US 3rd, UK 1st divs., + armor); 26 Jan. German XIV Army; ULTRA intelligence. 22 Feb. MGen Lucian Truscott replaces Lucas.

Operation DIADEM (Allied interdiction, cut Brenner Pass); 11 May. combined 5th Army, UK 8th Army (Gen. Sir Oliver Leese since Dec. 43); II Polish Corps (Gen. Wladislaw Anders), FEC.

Anzio Breakout (23-26 May); Rome 4 June; Gothic Line (Viareggio-Pesaro).

The Pacific 1943-May 1944: Southwest Pacific (SOWEPAC) Gen. MacArthur: New Guinea (Buna, Lae, Hollandia), Bismarck Sea, New Britain; Rabaul neutralized; South Pacific (SOPAC), VADM Halsey: Solomon Islands: Russell Is. (Yamamoto shot down, April 18), New Georgia, Rendova (June 43); Bougainville (Nov. 43); Central Pacific, ADM Nimitz, Fifth Fleet (VADM Spruance): Gilbert Is. (Tarawa, Nov. 43); Marshall Islands (Feb. 44 - Kwajalein, Eniwetok; Truk (Caroline Is.) neutralized.

China-Burma-India; India: Viceroy, FM Lord Wavell; South East Asia Command (SEAC, Sep. 1943), ADM Lord Louis Mountbatten; deputy Gen. Joseph Stilwell); Japanese Burma Area Army (LGen. Masakazu Kawabe), 15th Army; Subhas Chandra Bose, Indian National Army; Line Bay of Bengal-Himalayas. Burma Road/Ledo Road. BGen. Orde Wingate, "Chindits" (Jan. 43); BGen Frank Merrill, Merrill's Marauders;"

Arakan Offensives; UK 14th Army, Oct. 1943, LGen. William Slim (later Viscount Slim); Japanese Imphal Offensive (March-June 1944); Imphal, Kohima battles.

Recommended reading: Rick Atkinson, *The Day of Battle: The War in Sicily and Italy 1943-1944* (2007)

Samuel Eliot Morison, *History of U.S. Naval Operations in World War II*; vol. X *The Atlantic Battle Won* (1956)